

heating said part locally by means of a heating probe (15, 32, 42, 52, 62, 72) so as to render said area of said part plastic, and

using a punch (15, 32, 42, 52, 62, 72) to modify the geometry of said area rendered plastic so as to delimit in said part a mechanically weakened area constituting a hole or hole precursor,

said section having a longitudinal succession of mechanically weakened areas forming holes or hole precursors.

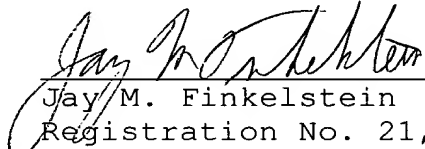
REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement presented in the Examiner's Action of December 11, 2002, claims 1-17 have been cancelled and claim 18 has been amended to place it in independent form. Thus, Group II, claims 18-28, are being elected for examination on the merits. Such examination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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